

WC MEMO

4/21/82

September 14, 1977

Dear Mr. Wei:

Thanks for your August 30 letter enclosing a copy of the recent Declaration on Human Rights issued by the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan. Your views on human rights, China policy and the future of Taiwan are appreciated.

The Department was aware of the publication and the government's subsequent confiscation of the Presbyterian Church's declaration. The decision to confiscate the publication represents a regrettable restriction on the free expression of ideas on Taiwan. It is our understanding, however, that none of the declaration's authors have been arrested or detained by the authorities. You may rest assured that the American Embassy in Taipei will continue to follow the matter closely.

As to the substance of the declaration, the Department is very conscious of the view that the future of Taiwan should be decided in accordance with the principle of self-determination. The position of the U.S. Government on this issue, which is based on the Shanghai Communique, was succinctly stated by Secretary Vance in his June 29 Asia Society speech as follows: "We acknowledge the view expressed in the Shanghai Communique that there is but one China. We also place importance on the peaceful settlement of the Taiwan question by the Chinese themselves."

Sincerely,

Patricia M. Derian
Assistant Secretary for
Human Rights and
Humanitarian Affairs

Mr. Ben J. Wei,
General Secretary,
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